United Nations S/PV.4041

# Security Council

Fifty-fourth Year

*Provisional*

**4041**st Meeting

Friday, 3 September 1999, 9 p.m.

New York

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|---|---|---|
| *President*: | Mr. van Walsum | (Netherlands) |
| *Members*: | Argentina | Ms. Moglia |
| | Bahrain | Mr. Al-Dosari |
| | Brazil | Mr. Cordeiro |
| | Canada | Mr. Fowler |
| | China | Mr. Qin Huasun |
| | France | Mr. Dejammet |
| | Gabon | Mr. Essonghé |
| | Gambia | Mr. Jagne |
| | Malaysia | Mr. Hasmy |
| | Namibia | Mr. Andjaba |
| | Russian Federation | Mr. Granovsky |
| | Slovenia | Mr. Zbogar |
| | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sir Jeremy Greenstock |
| | United States of America | Mr. Burleigh |

## Agenda

The situation in East Timor

99-85738 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

*The meeting was called to order at 9 p.m.*

**Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

**The situation in East Timor**

**The President:** I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Indonesia and Portugal in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia) and Mr. Monteiro (Portugal) took seats at the Council table.*

**The President:** The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I call on the Secretary-General.

**The Secretary-General**: On 5 May 1999, Portugal, Indonesia and the United Nations concluded a historic set of Agreements intended to resolve the long-standing issue of East Timor. These 5 May Agreements requested me to determine, through a popular consultation based on a universal, direct and secret ballot, whether the East Timorese people would accept or reject a proposed special autonomy for East Timor within the unitary Republic of Indonesia.

To enable me to fulfil this request, the Security Council established on 11 June 1999 the United Nations Mission in East Timor, which proceeded to organize and conduct the popular consultation. It registered 451,792 voters in East Timor and around the world, in a registration process which the Electoral Commission, a body composed of three independent commissioners, deemed to be a sound basis for the conduct of the consultation.

Thus, on 30 August 1999, in a show of courage and determination, the people of East Timor turned out in massive numbers to vote in the popular consultation, expressing their will as to the future of the Territory. The votes cast have now been counted, and the Electoral Commission has assessed all outstanding complaints and certified the results of the popular consultation process. Therefore, in fulfilment of the task entrusted to me by the 5 May Agreements, I hereby announce the result of the vote.

The result of the vote is 94,388, or 21.5 per cent, in favour and 344,580, or 78.5 per cent, against the proposal for special autonomy. The people of East Timor have thus rejected the proposed special autonomy and expressed their wish to begin a process of transition towards independence.

After 24 years of conflict, East Timor now stands at the threshold of what we all hope will be a process orderly and peaceful transition towards independence. The coming days, however, will require patience and calm from the people of East Timor. I hardly need stress how important it is for its leaders to exercise wisdom and reason. Now is the time for all concerned to seize the opportunity to lay a firm and lasting foundation for cooperation and peace and to usher in an era of stability and prosperity for all future generations of East Timorese.

Those who voted to accept the proposed special autonomy must not consider this outcome a loss. Nor indeed should the majority consider it a victory, for there are no winners and no losers today. Rather, this moment heralds the opportunity for all East Timorese to begin to forge together a common future in what is to become an independent East Timor.

Today I ask all the parties to bring to an end the violence that for 24 years has caused untold suffering to East Timor. I ask them to begin in earnest a process of dialogue and reconciliation through the East Timor Consultative Commission. I call upon the Government of Indonesia, which made possible the consultation process through a statesmanlike initiative of the President of the Republic, to ensure its successful culmination by carrying out its responsibility to maintain law and order in the Territory.

I should like to thank both Indonesia and Portugal for their commitment and perseverance in this process. I am confident that the Governments will fulfil their

remaining obligations under the 5 May Agreements. Let me assure both Governments that the United Nations will continue to work with them to ensure the implementation of the results of the consultation through a peaceful and orderly process.

Let me also assure the people of East Timor that the United Nations will not fail them in guiding East Timor in its transition towards independence.

**The President**: I thank the Secretary-General for his important statement.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

*The meeting rose at 9.10 p.m.*

United Nations S/PV.4042

# Security Council
Fifty-fourth Year

*Provisional*

**4042**nd Meeting
Friday, 3 September 1999, 10.15 p.m.
New York

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|---|---|---|
| *President*: | Mr. van Walsum | (Netherlands) |
| *Members*: | Argentina | Ms. Moglia |
| | Bahrain | Mr. Buallay |
| | Brazil | Mr. Fonseca |
| | Canada | Mr. Fowler |
| | China | Mr. Qin Huasun |
| | France | Mr. Doutriaux |
| | Gabon | Mr. Essonghé |
| | Gambia | Mr. Jagne |
| | Malaysia | Mr. Hasmy |
| | Namibia | Mr. Andjaba |
| | Russian Federation | Mr. Granovsky |
| | Slovenia | Mr. Zbogar |
| | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sir Jeremy Greenstock |
| | United States of America | Mr. Burleigh |

## Agenda

The situation in East Timor

Letter dated 3 September 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/944)

99-85744 (E)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 p.m.*

**Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

**The situation in East Timor**

**Letter dated 3 September 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/944)**

**The President:** I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Indonesia and Portugal in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia) and Mr. Monteiro (Portugal) took seats at the Council table.*

**The President:** The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the letter dated 3 September 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, document S/1999/944.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the successful popular consultation of the East Timorese people on 30 August 1999 and the letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council of 3 September 1999 (S/1999/944) announcing the ballot result. The Council expresses its support for the courage of those who turned out in record numbers to express their views. It regards the popular consultation as an accurate reflection of the views of the East Timorese people.

"The Security Council pays tribute to the extraordinary work of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General. It also commends the courage and dedication of the Special Representative for the East Timor popular consultation and of the staff of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) in organizing and conducting the popular consultation in extremely difficult conditions.

"The Security Council calls on all parties, both inside and outside East Timor, to respect the result of the popular consultation. The Council urges the East Timorese people to work together to implement their decision as freely and democratically expressed in the ballot and to cooperate in the building of peace and prosperity in the territory. The Security Council now looks to the Indonesian Government to take the necessary constitutional steps to implement the result of the ballot, in accordance with the Agreements of 5 May 1999 (S/1999/513, annexes I-III).

"The Security Council recognizes that the Agreements of 5 May 1999 which led to the popular consultation of the East Timorese people would not have been possible without the timely initiative of the Government of Indonesia and the constructive attitude of the Government of Portugal. It commends the sustained efforts of the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal, through the good offices of the Secretary-General, to find a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for its cooperation with the United Nations in the process.

"The Security Council condemns the violence in East Timor which both preceded and followed the ballot of 30 August 1999. It expresses its condolences to the families of United Nations local staff and others so tragically killed. It underlines the need for the result to be implemented in an atmosphere of peace and security without further violence and intimidation. In accordance with its responsibility for maintaining peace and security under the Agreements of 5 May 1999, it is for the Government of Indonesia to take steps to prevent

further violence. It also looks to the Government of Indonesia to guarantee the security of UNAMET personnel and premises. The Security Council is ready to consider sympathetically any proposal from the Secretary-General to ensure the peaceful implementation of the popular consultation process.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to report as soon as possible on the implementation of the ballot result, including recommendations on the mandate, size and structure of the United Nations presence in East Timor in the implementation phase (Phase III).

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1999/27.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

*The meeting rose at 10.30 p.m.*